

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method of treating porous dielectric materials comprising:

treating the surface of a porous dielectric material with hydrocarbon plasma, so as to deposit a carbon-rich polymer material on the surface of the porous dielectric material; and

depositing a barrier material over the carbon-rich polymer material, so as to line the vias and the trenches.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the barrier material is comprised of tantalum.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the barrier material is comprised of tantalum nitride.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the hydrocarbon plasma is comprised of C_2H_4 .

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the porous dielectric material is polymer material.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the porous dielectric material is a non-organic material.

Claims 20-26 (Canceled)